

# The Soldiers Almanac


**A**S it has throughout its 222 years of service to the nation, the Total Army performed critical missions in support of the national military strategy in 1997. At the same time, the Army has continued preparing to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The brigade Advanced Warfighting Experiment, conducted last spring at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., by soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division with the superb support of other Army units and civilian contractors, helped pave the way for the Army to field its first digitized division. We continued the experimental process with

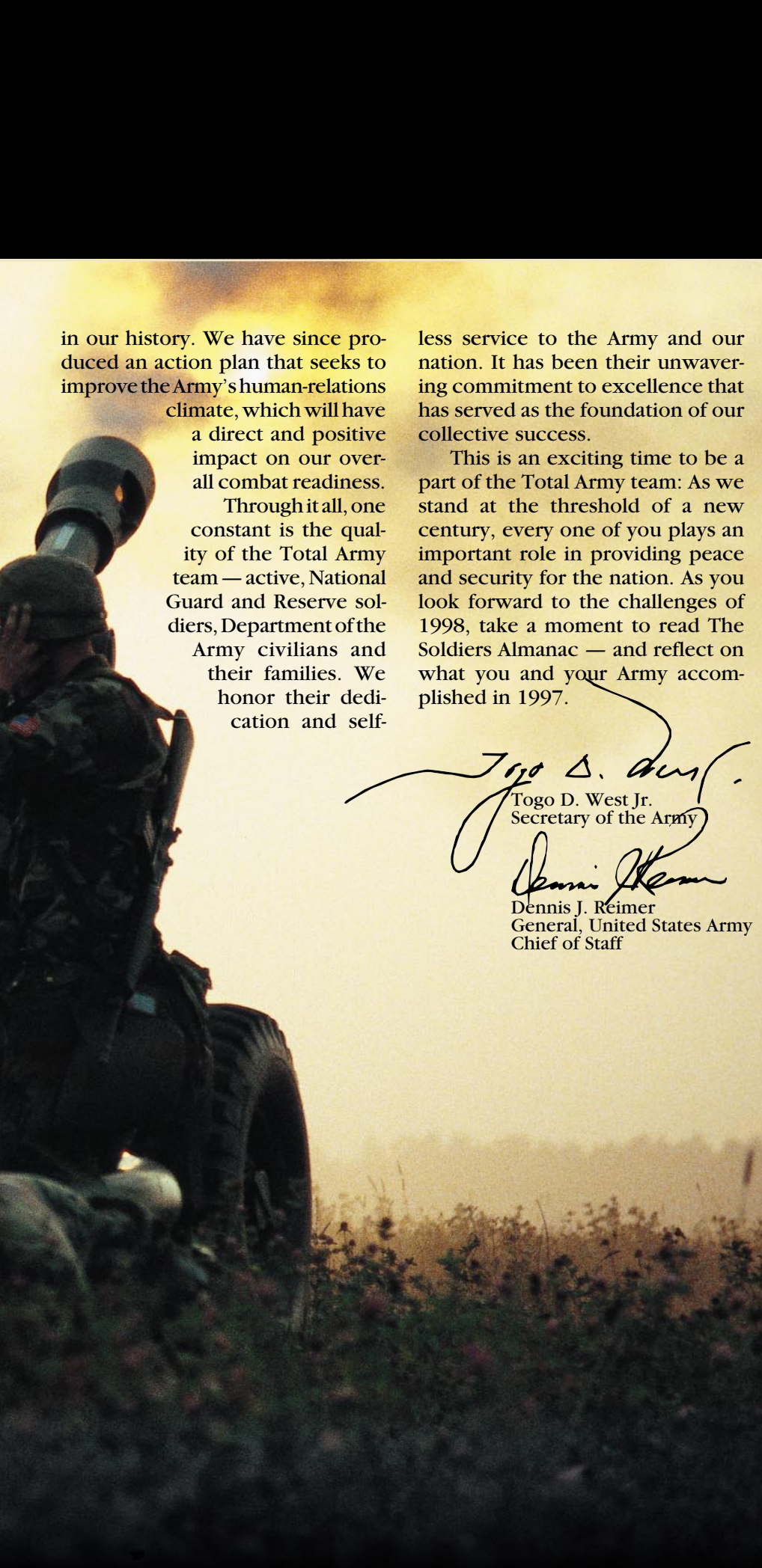
the recent division AWE at Fort Hood, Texas, in November.

With the other services, the Army participated in the Quadrennial Defense Review and worked closely with the National Defense Panel. Both of these comprehensive efforts gave us excellent opportunities to highlight the unique contributions the Army makes to the joint warfighting team.

This past year was also an historic one for the Army because it marked the first time we had soldiers deployed in 100 countries. In the midst of these missions and others throughout the world, we maintained a focus on our most valuable resource — our soldiers. Specifically, we focused on the human dimension of change by conducting the most thorough assessment of human relations



A Bosnia-bound howitzer crew from the Italy-based Southern European Task Force sends a round downrange during pre-deployment training at Hohenfels, Germany. — Spec. John Michaels

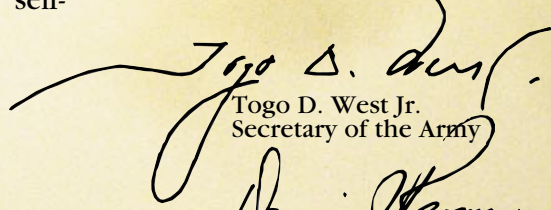


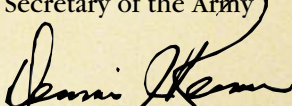
in our history. We have since produced an action plan that seeks to improve the Army's human-relations climate, which will have a direct and positive impact on our overall combat readiness.

Through it all, one constant is the quality of the Total Army team — active, National Guard and Reserve soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and their families. We honor their dedication and self-

less service to the Army and our nation. It has been their unwavering commitment to excellence that has served as the foundation of our collective success.

This is an exciting time to be a part of the Total Army team: As we stand at the threshold of a new century, every one of you plays an important role in providing peace and security for the nation. As you look forward to the challenges of 1998, take a moment to read *The Soldiers Almanac* — and reflect on what you and your Army accomplished in 1997.

  
Togo D. West Jr.  
Secretary of the Army

  
Dennis J. Reimer  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

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### This is Our Army 40

Front cover: Pvt. 2 Joey Peterson of the 534th MP Co. moves through a lagoon at Fort Sherman, Panama, during training at the Jungle Operations Training Center. — *Spec. Kenneth Rockett*

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